

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Bogdan Radu et al.  
Serial No.: 10/711,480  
Filed: September 21, 2004  
Group Art Unit: 3612  
Examiner: Bao Q. Truong  
Title: AUTOMOTIVE STORAGE COMPARTMENT HAVING AN  
ELECTROLUMINESCENT LAMP AND METHOD OF  
MAKING THE SAME  
Attorney Docket: MASL-55  
Confirmation No.: 5479

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

June 16, 2006

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

This reply is in response to the Restriction Requirement mailed June 8, 2006. The following remarks are respectfully submitted.

**Amendments to the claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on Page 5 of this paper.

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Original) An automotive interior trim assembly, comprising:
  - a support; and
  - a storage compartment coupled to said support and adapted to store one or more items, said storage compartment comprising:
    - a compartment body defining a cavity adapted to store the one or more items and having an opening for gaining access to said cavity; and
    - a cover coupled to said compartment body and moveable between an open position, wherein said cavity is accessible through said opening, and a closed position, wherein said cover overlies said opening; and
    - an electroluminescent lamp molded to one of said compartment body and said cover and adapted to illuminate said cavity when said cover is in the open position.
2. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said electroluminescent lamp is molded to the compartment body.
3. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said electroluminescent lamp is molded to the cover.
4. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 1 further comprising:
  - an electrical circuit for energizing said electroluminescent lamp.

5. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 4, wherein said electrical circuit comprises:

a power source;

a first electrical connector coupled to said compartment body and electrically coupled to said electroluminescent lamp; and

a second electrical connector coupled to said support and electrically coupled to said power source, wherein said first electrical connector is electrically coupled to said second electrical connector when said storage compartment is coupled to said support so as to energize said electroluminescent lamp.

6. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 4, further comprising:

an electrical switch having a first position that energizes the electroluminescent lamp and a second position that de-energizes the electroluminescent lamp.

7. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 6, wherein said electrical switch is in the first position when said cover is in the open position and said electrical switch is in the second position when said cover is in the closed position.

8. (Original) An automotive interior trim assembly, comprising:

a support; and

a storage compartment coupled to said support and adapted to store one or more items, said storage compartment comprising:

a compartment body defining a cavity adapted to store the one or more items and having an opening for gaining access to said cavity, said compartment

body including a first connecting member integrally formed therein; and

a cover including a second connecting member integrally formed therein, said first connecting member cooperating with said second connecting member to couple said cover to said compartment body, said cover being moveable between an open position, wherein said cavity is accessible through said opening, and a closed position, wherein said cover overlies said opening; and

an electroluminescent lamp coupled to one of said compartment body and said cover and adapted to illuminate said cavity when said cover is in the open position.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-11 were originally filed in the application and are subject to a restriction requirement. The Examiner has identified Group I as being drawn to an automotive interior trim assembly having an EL lamp for illumination and represented by claims 1-8, and Group II as being drawn to a method of forming an automotive storage compartment in a two-shot molding operation and represented by claims 9-11. In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants elect Group I, identified by the Examiner as being represented by claims 1-8. The non-elected claims 9-11 have been canceled without prejudice to the filing of one or more divisional applications.

In view of the election and remarks given herein, Applicants respectfully request early and favorable examination of the Application. If there is any matter that may be resolved by telephone or facsimile, the Examiner is respectfully asked to telephone the undersigned Attorney so that the matter may be promptly resolved.

Applicants are of the opinion that no additional fee is due as a result of this Response. If any petition is due or any additional fee is required necessary to complete this communication, please consider this to be a request for such and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully Submitted,

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